

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated on the attached Appendix A according to the revision to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making amendments to the specification.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated on the attached Appendix B according to the revision to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning manner for making claim amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are presently pending in the application.

Subsequent to the enclosed amendment, claim 1 is currently amended, claims 2 and 5-8 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice, new claims 9-12 are added and claims 3 and 4 are pending as originally filed.

The claim amendments place the originally filed claims into the same form as pending in the most recent amendment in the parent application; namely the amendment filed on July 9, 2003, in the parent application.

As noted in the parent application, the amendments contain no new matter and are supported as indicated in previous responses.

Notably, new claim 12, which corresponds to claim 17 in the parent application, is supported by the specification at page 1, lines 9-13, 20-23 and 33-34 as well as by originally filed claim 1.

The specification has been amended at page 1 before the first paragraph to make reference to Applicants' parent application and prior related applications and to correct minor typographical errors as made in the parent application.

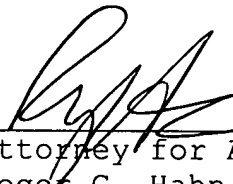
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the pending claims and allow the pending claims. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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